



State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality



M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

L. Hall Bohlinger
Secretary

For Immediate Release
March 7, 2003

Contact: Tiffany Dickerson
Dugan Sabins
Telephone: 225.765.0718

DEQ SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR 2003 GULF GUARDIAN AWARDS
Deadline Set for April 15

(Baton Rouge) - The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is seeking recipients for the Gulf Guardian Award. As a partner with the Gulf of Mexico Program, DEQ is encouraging all Louisiana residents to nominate private citizens, businesses, groups or organizations that are taking positive steps to keep the Gulf of Mexico and associated coastal water habitats healthy, beautiful and productive. Entry forms for the 2003 Gulf Guardian Award are available on line at: <http://www.epa.gov/gmpo/gulfguard.html>. The deadline is set for April 15.

In 2000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Program created the Gulf Guardian Award. The award was developed as a way to recognize and honor businesses, universities, and community groups that are actively involved in the preservation of the Gulf. Each year, first, second and third places are awarded in six categories. These are business, government, civic/nonprofit, youth/education, partnerships, and individuals.

"Many people in Louisiana work hard to protect and improve the state's coastal environment around the Gulf. These efforts are worthy of the recognition the Gulf Guardian Award brings," stated DEQ Secretary Hall Bohlinger. Secretary Bohlinger is also State Co-chair of the Gulf Program's Policy Review Board.

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The Gulf of Mexico Program is a consortium of local, state and federal government agencies, representatives of the business and agricultural community, fishing industry, university scientists and environmental and community leaders from all five Gulf Coast states. It was started in 1988 to protect, restore and maintain the health and productivity of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem in a way that was cooperative and non-regulatory, and economically sustainable.

Dugan Sabins, DEQ Senior Scientist and Gulf Program Management Committee representative says that, “Louisiana’s Gulf area is important to the environmental preservation of the state and also the nation. The Gulf Guardian Award gives special recognition to those who are going that extra mile to protect and preserve such a valuable resource. That is why we want to encourage everyone to submit nominations.”

To fill out the form, click on the second button after entering the site. Download and complete the form, and then email it to: gulf.guardian@epa.gov. The entry form is designed as an expanding table. You will note that as you type information in the block it automatically expands. For assistance with the application process or for more information call Terry Hines-Smith with the Gulf of Mexico Program at 228-688-1159 or Dugan Sabins with DEQ at 225-765-0246.